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99TH CONGRESS
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
99-45

ESTABLISHING THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE TWO-YEAR BUDGET

MAY 9 (legislative day, APRIL 15), 1985.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. MATHIAS, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. Res. 159]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, having considered an original resolution (S. Res. 159) to establish a select committee to study and make recommendations with respect to a 2-year budget process, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the resolution be agreed to.

The Committee on Rules and Administration having considered the recommendation of the temporary Select Committee to Study the Senate Committee System, 98th Congress, 2d Session, and the proposal contained in S. Res. 31, 99th Congress, herewith favorably reports an original resolution to establish a temporary Select Committee on the Two-Year Budget, and recommends its adoption.

PURPOSES OF THE RESOLUTION

The principal purpose of creating a Select Committee on the Two-Year Budget is to eliminate some jurisdictional and procedural obstacles which materially delay consideration of improvements in the budget process. In two prior Congresses legislation to establish a two-year budget and appropriation cycle and to make other improvements in the budget process has had to be jointly referred to three Senate standing committees, Budget, Governmental Affairs, and Rules and Administration, each of which share jurisdiction over such legislative proposals.

The Select Committee will be given the temporary legislative authority to consider and recommend such legislation to the Senate, and measures on this subject introduced during the existence of the Select Committee will be referred to it. The Select Committee's jurisdiction will be very broad and comprehensive in order to fully cover all aspects of the budget process.

A growing number of Members of the Senate have expressed increased interest in giving serious consideration to the proposed two-year budget and appropriation cycle. The Select Committee ap-

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proach offers the best opportunity to get such legislation before the Senate in the shortest amount of time.

EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION

All three committees having legislative jurisdiction over such legislation will be equally represented on the Select Committee, which will have twelve members. In addition, the Appropriations Committee, with a substantial interest in such legislation, will also be represented by two members. The remaining four members will come from the Senate at large. Members of the Select Committee will be selected by the majority and minority leaders, respectively.

The Select Committee will exist only for the duration of the first session of the 99th Congress, and will be required to report its recommendations to the Senate within 180 days from the date of adoption of the resolution.

Measures dealing with the subject matter described as the special jurisdiction of the Select Committee will, upon introduction following its creation, be referred to it. The Select Committee will be authorized to employ its own staff, but it will also have authority to use staff from other committees, with the consent of the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of each such affected committee. Expenses of the Committee will be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate, with total expenditures limited to not in excess of $300,000.

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